

To Whom It May Concern:

I live in Cumberland County, Maine. I am very concerned about Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to air a supposed documentary, "Stolen Honor" on its 62 stations nationwide, including Channel 13 in Portland, Maine just before the November 2 election. This is clearly an attempt by Sinclair to use its market power and the public airwaves to pursue its own political agenda.

I am offended that the public airwaves are being used to benefit the political and financial interests of the power elite, such as Sinclair Broadcasting and its CEO, David Smith. The public's right to fair and balanced reporting should not be co-opted simply because a company and its owners have been able to take advantage of deregulation and amass great power and wealth.

One of the great tenets of our democracy is not only the ability to express oneself freely and openly, but to be able to effect change through free speech. Unfortunately, when mass media outlets are available only to the most powerful and wealthy, freedom of speech becomes illusory. The first amendment should apply to all people in the United States, not only to those have money to pay for it.

I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission stop Sinclair from broadcasting "Stolen Honor" before the election unless it agrees to air, also before the election, an equally controversial documentary such as "Fahrenheit 9/11" or at least a documentary such as "Going Up River" which would offer a differing perspective on Kerry's Vietnam experience.

Thank you for your time.

Beth George